

Report from the Chair

I am pleased to say that this has been another good year where we have maintained a full and varied walks programme and also included three excellent group holidays.

We should give thanks to the volunteers who make this happen, both the walks programme and the group holidays.

To maintain this level of performance we do need more volunteers to maintain momentum.

At an operational level we need more volunteers to support in running the group, as we are currently having to double up on roles and neglecting others.

Also we do need to consider succession planning.

I am pleased to report that we have a volunteer for the role of Secretary for the group to help ensure coordination and good communication both internally within the SCR group and externally with the Ramblers

Other roles we require include

Footpath Officer

Publicity, with a focus on the use of social media to engage externally.

Ramblers Organisational Changes

Regarding the Ramblers organisation there has been a lot of activity on a major review of its Governance.

This review was undertaken following a motion at the 2024 General Council to reduce bureaucracy and to improve the democratic processes within the organisation.

John Peck (East Cheshire are Chair) has put together a summary of the direction it is taking.

Company members and AGM

All fully paid up members of one or more years standing will become company (ie voting) members with the right to attend the AGM and elect trustees

AGM to be held online

Election of trustees held online in advance of the AGM. Results to be confirmed and take effect from the AGM

12 trustees to form the board. Six elected by members, four appointed by the board and two selected by the board and appointed subject to ratification by members at the AGM

Member and volunteer gathering

Gatherings to be held annually on a regional basis - 4 in England, 1 in Scotland and 1 in Wales.

Open to all members, but numbers limited by venue. At least one place guaranteed for each group and costs covered. Others are required to pay their own costs.

Agenda to include topics proposed by Groups and the board, Workshops for knowledge sharing, as well as socialising and informal conversation, including walks.

Current motions process replaced by a formalised process of discussions and debates at these gatherings.

A GB wide gathering would take place at least every 3 years. (Festival of Walking)

Areas, Groups and Nations (Provisional - subject to further review)

Groups to be the primary formal organising unit with simplified requirements and direct funding from Ramblers central funds.

Groups to appoint through open fair and transparent process - Group lead, financial lead and Activities lead. Other roles to be appointed at the discretion of the Group.

Note - propose Congleton to continue with current Committee roles to spread workload!

No formal AGM required, but an annual gathering recommended for sharing, celebrating, and appointing roles.

Areas (Hubs)

Areas will cease to exist and Hubs established, aligned to local government. (Devolution will add complication)

Hubs will have no formal governance role.

Primary role is the coordination of PRow, footpath and access work. If needed, they could also coordinate training, sharing best practice etc.

Hubs would liaise with each other where boundaries do not align eg National Parks.

Each Hub would have a lead role appointed at an annual gathering (recommended). Additional roles could be appointed if required.

A Hub may apply for central funding to support its work.

Note - Current thinking is that Cheshire East will continue to operate very much in its current format (with the 3 areas), subject to local government reorganisation/devolution.

SCR Walks Co-ordinator Report for the AGM February 2026

Weekly day time walks 2025

	No of walks	Average number of walkers
Short Walks	20	12.2
Medium Walks	49	10.9
Long Walks	27	10.4
Total Walks	96	10.9

20 active walk leaders, note 4 walks leaders accounted for 48% of the walks Pub walks 2025

	No of Walks	Average number of walkers
Total walks	15	14.3
Ref 2024 walks	16	12

12 active walk leaders, and 1 walk leader accounted for 4 of the walks

The number of approved SCR walk leaders following the implementation of new training rules from the Ramblers is currently 14.

Membership secretary report

November 2024 – October 2025

The year started with 210 members in November 2024 and ended the year with 195 members in September 2025

During this time 46 members have left the group and 31 have joined the Group.

(Since Sept to Jan 10 members have left the group and 15 have joined making our current membership 200)

If we look back to October 2018 there were 206 members and 204 members in October 2022

There is a trend towards fluidity with a healthy number of new members but also a considerable number leaving

We have a good and varied walks programme and new members are made welcome.

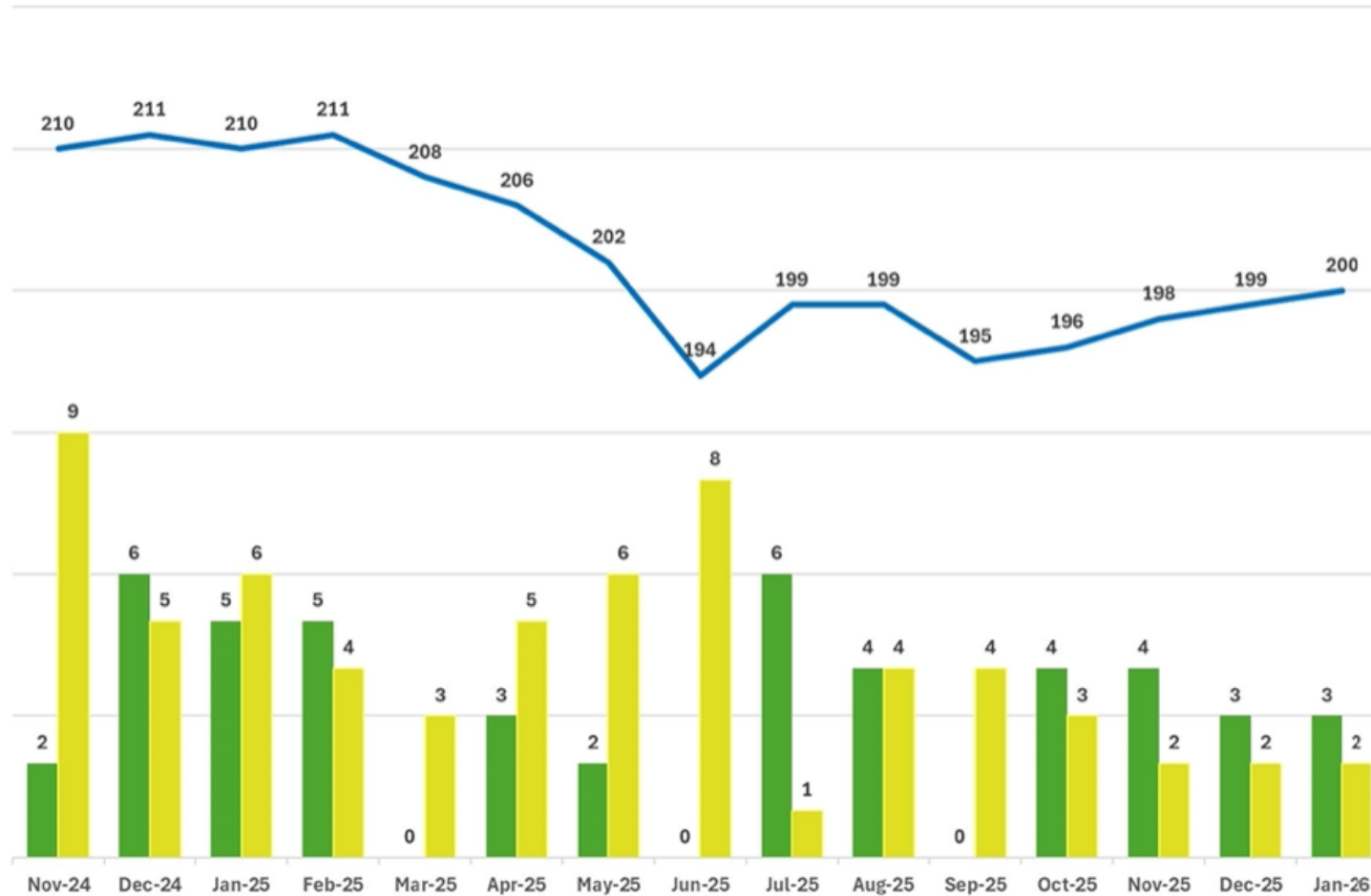
Walk leaders are requested to seek feedback from any new walkers and feedback to the membership secretary to help understand any retention issues.

South Cheshire Ramblers Membership - November 2024 to January 2026

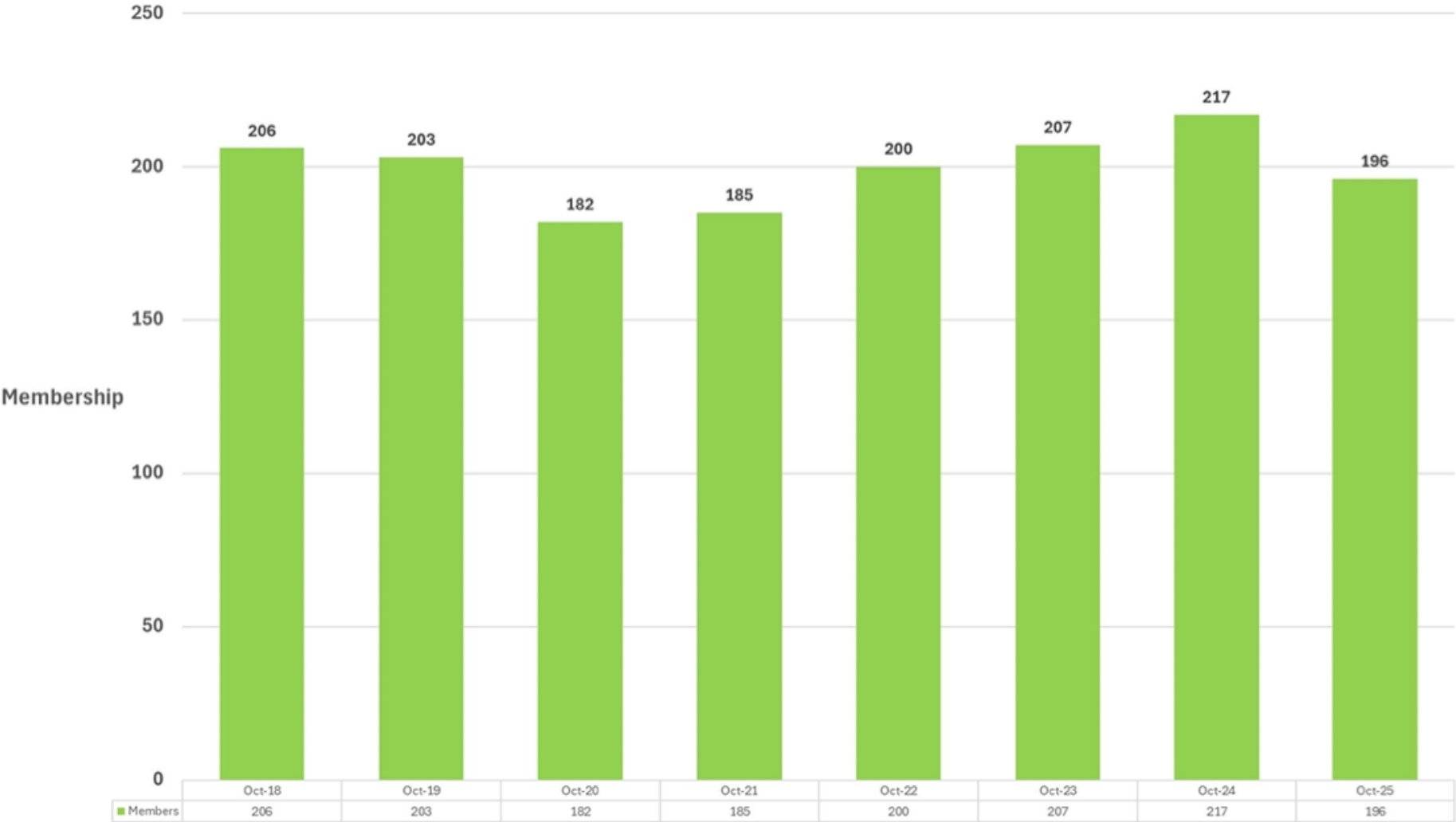
New Members Leavers Membership

Membership

New Members
& Leavers



South Cheshire Ramblers Membership, 2018 - 2025



SCR Walks Footpath Officers Report for the AGM March 2026

Meetings attended in 2025

- 17/2/2025 East Cheshire Area FP Officers Coordination Meeting
- 19/2/2025 Cheshire East Council PROW Consultative Group Meeting
Informed that CEC Network Officers would increase from 3 to 4
- 29/9/2025 East Cheshire Area FP Officers Coordination Meeting
- 8/10/2025 Cheshire East Council PROW Consultative Group Meeting
Informed that one of the 4 Network Officers was temporarily seconded to another role
- East Cheshire Ramblers have inspected 1225 out of 1295 PROWs in their area in 2025

Proposed Diversion Orders from Cheshire East Council 2025

- 22/1/2025 Wardle FP12, FP14
- 22/1/2025 Buerton FP20
- 22/1/2025 Buerton FP22
- 24/3/2025 Nantwich FP35, FP36, FP37
- 9/7/2025 Wardle FP3, FP4
- 11/7/2025 Brindley FP7
- 18/8/2025 Newhall FP8
- 17/9/2025 Haslington FP22, FP38
- 18/9/2025 Basford FP2, Weston FP17

The Footpath Officer is expected to investigate each of these proposed diversions and comment to CEC within a specified timescale. Unfortunately, due to lack of time this has not been done.

SCR website Status

There has been an issue with the Walk Submission form, possibly due to the upgrade to Joomla 5.4.0.

However this has now been resolved.

Our site is hosted by Ramblers-Webs which has a web host account that allows it to host a number of Web Sites at reasonable costs funded by Central Office.

If any members are interested in how our site is administered a user account can be set up so that a member can have administrator access to view the Home Dashboard and make changes to the site.

You can also register on Ramblers-Webs and have access to '<https://www.ramblers-webs.org.uk/>';.

The account gives you access to support, "How to" information and a Forum where questions and answers are posted.

A small group of volunteers act as overall Administrators with help and guidance at : support@ramblers-websites.zendesk.com

SOUTH CHESHIRE RAMBLERS ACCOUNTS 1.10.2024 – 30.09.25

Please find attached an overview of the South Cheshire Ramblers accounts for 1.10.2024 – 30.09.2025, which have been audited by Paul Boniface.

Income

At the beginning of the financial year, the Group had an opening balance of £906.34, and Ramblers' funding of £700 had been requested and agreed. This was increased by £40 in "membership reward" donations from Ramblers Holidays and this amount has been allocated to the self-funded income (for holidays and socials).

Main Funds

This year, spending of main funds comprises spending of £86.79 on the AGM for room hire and refreshments, £428.09 on walk-related expenses, mainly recces, but also including a subscription of £59.99 to continue publishing the walk photos on Flickr. A contribution of £283.79 was also made to Cheshire East for fencing of a new footpath in Wardle, resulting in a final balance of £807.67.

Self-funded account

With regard to the self-funded account, the HF Church Stretton holiday resulted in a positive balance of £130. Following deposit payments to one hotel and the guide for the Lycian Way holiday, it was decided to pay the balances directly whilst on the holiday and refunds were duly made to the holiday participants, resulting in a zero balance for the club. £170 of the self funded cash was spent on pre-dinner drinks, competition materials and a prize at the annual dinner and £48.15 was spent on ice creams on the Gower holiday. The self-funded account balance is currently £397.96.

Final balance of accounts

On 30th September we had a final balance of £1205.63 including a cash holding of £40.64 and an HF membership shareholding of £105.04.

At 101.1%, the reserves to expenditure ratio of the main fund content is marginally higher than the ratio of 40-100% recommended by the Ramblers. This should be rectified by spending planned for 2026.

An annual funding request of £1600 has been submitted for 2025/26, including a £600 contribution to East Cheshire footpath improvements (£283 of which has already been spent – see above), £270 to cover 50% of the cost of a 1 day First Aiders course, shared with East Cheshire, and £120 annual subscription for an upgrade to the MailChimp account, to allow shared usage for up to 3 people and therefore provide back-up.

Chris Ashton

Treasurer

Annual income					
Central Office	£700.00	(main income)			
Ramblers Holidays	£40.00	(self-funded income)			
Total	£740.00				
Main Expenditure					
Walk related	£428.09				
Meetings related (general incl. AGM)	£86.79				
Walks programme meeting					
Footpaths	£283.79				
Total	£798.67				
Self-funded expenditure	Annual Dinner	The Gower	Church Stretton	Lyclan Way	Total
Income	£944.50	£0.00	£6,600.00	£3,650.00	£11,194.50
Expenditure	-£1,114.50	-£48.15	-£6,470.00	-£2,055.88	-£9,688.53
Refunds				-£1,594.12	-£1,594.12
Bank charges for cheque payments	-£0.30				-£0.30
Interest on HF shares			£1.18		£1.18
Balance	-£170.30	-£48.15	£131.18	£0.00	-£87.27
	Main	Self-funded	Total		
Initial Balance	£906.34	£445.23	£1,351.57		
Central office income	£700.00		£700.00		
Ramblers Holidays		£40.00	£40.00		
Expenditure	-£798.67	-£87.27	-£885.94		
Final balances	£807.67	£397.96	£1,205.63		
Assets	Current balance	Pending payments	Actual Balance		
Bank	£1,059.95		£1,059.95		
Cash	£40.64		£40.64		
HF membership share holding	£105.04		£105.04		
Total			£1,205.63		

Walk Leader Training

To be registered as a walk leader you now have either to have a record as a regular walk leader (12 walks in the last 3 years) or have completed the online course.

As an alternative East Cheshire Ramblers have run a number of walk leader workshops.

Participants range from regular leaders to those interested in becoming a walk leader.

Feedback from participants has been very positive.

Cheshire East will be running further workshops and have opened the invitation to SCR.

Attendance at one of the workshops qualifies you as a walk leader.

First Aid Training

There are two options to first aid training

1. Attendance at a first aid training course (one day)
2. Online training course through the Ramblers (a total of 15 videos)

Recommended approach is to attend an actual course and then review the online training